



Memorandum

To: MPICU Staff
Date: April 16, 2013
Subject: Pediatric Services

RQHR Board has given approval to develop a plan to consolidate in-patient pediatric services at the Regina General Hospital. The Region's intention was to share all components of the pediatric consolidation and invite stakeholder participation once we had an opportunity to speak with families. However, due to concerns raised by the public around the potential closure of 5D, we did discuss that component of the plan in advance.

Pediatric intensive care is a specialty service that requires certified pediatric intensivists, 24/7 in house physician coverage and access to subspecialty support. Children in Saskatchewan have access to a specialized Pediatric Intensive Care Unit in Saskatoon, and RQHR wants to ensure children in southern Saskatchewan have access to this care when needed. In recent years there has been an upward trend of critically ill children being transferred to Saskatoon and other centres for care. In reviewing cases sent out, we've learned that they benefited from more specialized care and want to ensure that all children who can benefit are transferred to these centres.

The RQHR board has also given approval to consider transitioning our current Medical Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (MPICU) to a High Acuity Unit at the Regina General Hospital which would initially be housed in our MPICU but could in time transition to Unit 4F at RGH. This proposal would result in the majority of children currently cared for in MPICU being managed in the High Acuity Unit while a smaller number of critically ill children would be transferred to other Pediatric Intensive Care Units, primarily in Saskatoon.

Consideration for closure of 5D and transitioning current Medical Pediatric Intensive Care Unit to a High Acuity Unit at the Regina General Hospital and transferring a small number of critically ill children to other Pediatric Intensive Care Units will all form part of this planning process. Over the next two months, the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region will be consulting and working with many stakeholders including staff, physicians, families, the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, the Ministry of Health, the Saskatoon Health Region among others to develop a plan which focuses on providing the best possible outcomes for children in our care.

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A decision will not be made until the consultation and planning process has been completed ~~and recommendations submitted to the Board. Our goal is to present the plan to the Board by the end of June, 2013, if possible. At that time the board may accept, amend or reject the recommendations. Any approved recommendations will include timelines and a transition plan.~~

We recognize your passion and commitment to providing pediatric intensive care and the loss you may feel. This transition is in no way a reflection of your ability to care for the pediatric patient. This transition will present cultural and transition challenges.

We extend an invitation to staff wanting to be a representative on the Transition Working Group. Staff are invited to send any concerns, questions to your unit manager or to Stacey Cortes, Project Manager, via e-mail at Stacey.Cortes @rqhealth.ca or by sealed envelope via interoffice mail to Specialty Care at the RGH with attention to Stacey Cortes.

Val Davies
Executive Director, Cardiosciences & Critical Care